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**EVANS & REEVES
NURSERIES**



"It's Different"

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SHOW YOUR COLORS!

Foliage Foil For Flamboyant Flowers

The importance of foliage in modern plantings is readily acknowledged, but why in so many cases are flowers being entirely eliminated to the point of monotony? Sitting in a Lanai in Hawaii we would look out on to many colorful trees and plants. In other tropical climes this would also apply. We do aim for tropical effect, and while we cannot employ Anthuriums, Heliconias, and many other glamorous subjects out-of-doors, we have much material that would give the average local planting a big lift for nowhere can the really flamboyant colors be used so well as against heavy tropical foliage.

For instance what could be more effective to liven up an otherwise dull shady corner than a good big clump of **Clivia**. The newer hybrids have year round attractive foliage while each spring an ever increasing number of brilliant orange-yellow amaryllis-like flowers appear.

What more exciting or fitting than long arching spikes of **Cymbidium** blooms thrusting upward and outward in a tropical planting? When the requirements of the Cymbidium are understood and catered to they are among the easiest and most satisfactory plants to grow—and they are no longer prohibitively priced.

Hibiscus should be mentioned here also: the lovely Paradise Moon, Haleakala, Bride, Patricia and other similar types so suggestive of the Islands. And helping out too when the planting runs out into the sun.

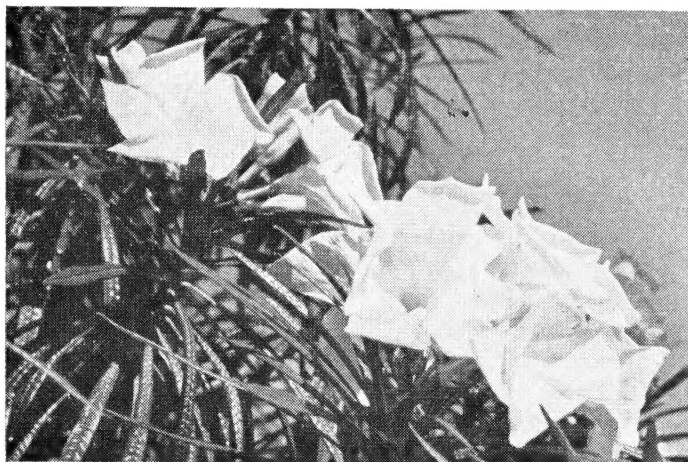
For seasonal color there are many subjects not used to the extent they deserve. The showy and exotic looking **Lilium auratum** (gold banded lily of Japan) is one of the handsomest of lilies as well as one of the largest flowering. The blooms are ivory white with

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The Evans & Reeves Nurseries Grapevine

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YCLEPT YCCOTLI

Giant Golden Thevetia— Another E & R Introduction

Little wonder that our new and rare plant of the month, **Thevetia thevetioides** has a redundant appellation, for everything about it urges superlatives and emphasis! Pure daffodil-yellow flowers some three inches across cluster at the terminals of each branch of this tropical beauty over a period of six months—indeed an experimental specimen flowered into December and is already forming buds for the coming season.

An evergreen background of slender dark glossy green leaves on clean open branches, sets off the glorious Allamanda-like blossoms and makes of this Thevetia Yccotli (a synonymous designation) a handsome foliage subject between flowering periods. Its good form and eventual proportion, roughly 12 feet high by as much across, offer wide-spread use in many situations.

Tropical lands abound with mouth-watering plants of every hue which are denied us because of their low resistance to cold and the first winter is therefore a critical test for each new tropical we bring into this country. Our present subject has been exposed to six winters in the local areas—at least two of which were "unusual" enough to bring

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IT'S TIME FOR . . .

Three shade-loving **Spring plants** which make **ideal Easter gifts** flattering to any garden are the **CINERARIA** in blues from azure to indigo, tall or short, solid shades or patterned, and several other colors, \$1.50 to \$2.50; old-fashioned **BLEEDING HEART** (*Dicentra spectabilis*) rose to pink-and-white, \$2. in eight-inch pots (with a small extra charge for attractive wrapping); and the feathery plumes of **ASTILBE** in red, white and pink at same price. Those who know Easter in the East or North may satisfy their nostalgia too with **RED BUD** (*Cercis canadensis*), a fine deciduous small tree with purple-pink pea blossoms all along branch and trunk, \$4. in five-gallon cans. Familiar shrubs of like association are represented by **MOCK ORANGE** or Sweet *Syringa* (*Philadelphus coronarius*), **SNOW BALL** (*Viburnum opulus*), and **WEIGELIA**. All are deciduous; all are happiest in some sun and some shade with ample moisture.

Another best in traditional bloom is again available in late-flowering **AZALEAS** which include such **BELGIAN INDICA HYBRIDS** as Ernest Eckhart, Mme. Monroe, and Jane Peters, fine pinks and reds (at \$1.85 and \$3.50), little planted in this area; late **SOUTHERN INDICAS** like **Pride of Dorking**, a blood-red which grows fast in sun or part shade, one gallon, \$1.85; and the even less known extra-late **MACRANTHA AZALEAS**, the pink and white **Gunneri** and the brilliant **La Cerise** whose name describes the color. These Azaleas are not new, and have been show pieces of fine old gardens in the Azalea belt for generations, but somehow have been overlooked in southwest gardens in recent years and we reintroduce them because their lush and hardy beauty extends the Azalea season well into early June.

Exotics include two **ECHIUMS** not described in the special article—**E. FASTUOSUM**, a blue-flowering, bold-foliaged shrub to five feet and more across, and **E. WILDPRETI**, a rose-flowered, grey leafed biennial to eight feet but narrow, pyramidal, unbranching. Both are fast-growing from one gallon cans at \$1.25. April too brings again the magnificent large-flowered lavender **BRUNFELSIA LINDENIANA**, not to be confused with *B. calycina floribunda*, a good but less rare shrub. *B. lindeniana* has a shorter but gaudier season in some shade, and comes in \$2.50 and \$7.50 sizes.

Now that Daffodils and Tulips are through blooming you don't have to let their ripening foliage sprawl all over the flower beds until ripe enough to cut off. Give a few hours to **tying each clump of bulb foliage** into a neat bundle with a piece of raffia then doubling over same and tying again. This gives room for the plants between the bulbous material to grow and cover the ripening bulb foliage. When completely ripe, cut off. Also **prune**

Hugh Evans

The Apostle Paul is on record with the remark that the Athenians in his time were always seeking something new. So are we ourselves: we explore all the corners of the universe by correspondence with plant collectors, Botanical gardens, and the likes, to find meritorious plants to enrich our gardens.

When the late Ernest H. Wilson (one of the greatest plant collectors of all time) left England to explore in western China, some horticulturists who should have known better, remarked that all the worth-while plants from China had already been introduced, so by way of refuting this point of view Mr. Wilson brought or sent back two thousand new species. It does not follow, however, that because a plant is new or rare it is also interesting or beautiful, indeed we have discarded many new introductions for one reason or another. And, many fine plants are not adapted to our climate, or will not succeed without special attention being paid to their requirements in the matter of soil and environment, attention which not all gardeners are prepared to give.

While we are always concerned to find and grow new plants, we are not suggesting that any true and tried old plants should be neglected. Many of the finest things in our gardens have been in cultivation for years, sometimes indeed for centuries. Plants of this description have been faithful friends for as long as we can remember and we properly regard them with deep affection; if they appear out of sorts or ailing we are not happy till we have restored them to health.

back all fast-growing, **early-blooming shrubs and vines** immediately after blossoms have passed. **Prune** (don't shear) and **fertilize Hibiscus**. **Fertilize roses** now and every month—steer, rose food, Super-

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SHOW YOUR COLORS!

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yellow bands down the center of each petal and purple blotches on the inner surface. Set well down in good rich soil they will grow to a height of five to six feet. A splendid companion for this is **L. rubrum** with crimson instead of yellow bands. **Sprekelia formosissima** is another spectacular bulb. A native of Mexico and a member of the Amaryllis family, its flower is large and of odd formation, vivid crimson in color, suggesting Orchids to most people meeting it for the first time. Then there is the **yellow Calla**. Both spotted foliage and blooms are showy.

IT'S TIME FOR . . .

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phosphate, liquid fertilizer or what-have-you, but vary the diet. All chlorotic foliage may be greened immediately with a couple of feedings, two weeks apart, of Sulphate of Ammonia and Iron-tone—two tablespoons of former and three of latter dissolved in one gallon of water, and one gallon of mixture to each medium-sized plant.

Pictures in seed catalogues and nursery advertisements in general, invariably have one thing in common: they show the largest, gaudiest Zinnias, or the most florescent evergreen shrub, or the oldest handsomest specimen tree in the country to sell a packet of seeds or a gallon can. This month the "It's Different!" slogan of Evans & Reeves really holds true for the photograph accompanying this plant-of-the-month article shows what you'll find in the can now . . . and the area devoted to the leaden March sky (some eight or ten feet of it!) is where the wonder will take place!

This boldly foliage biennial, **Echium pininana**, is a rarely found member of an extensive family hailing from the Canary Islands which is also represented here (more commonly) by **E. fastuosum**. Between now and July this tropical-appearing Echium will rise skyward in a swirl of rough lanceolate leaves from which will shoot gigantic spires of blue flower, the foot-wide spikes themselves accounting for more than half of the ultimate ten to twelve feet this fantastic plant will achieve this summer.

A favored location for **Echium pininana** may be a hot, arid, well-drained corner or a spot overlooking the ocean where it thrives within range of the salt spray, but it will not be in the inland valleys where the magnificent promise of this plant is not realized. Those which we offer now in one gallon containers (\$1.25) will flower this, their first summer, next year, and the following year will have reseeded to continue the cycle.

With the current enthusiasm for emphatic foliage in contemporary landscaping and the need for similarly striking flowering material as a counterbalance, **Echium pininana** is an arresting answer to what to put in the summer sun as a color accent.

THEVETIA

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temperatures of 25 degrees—and nary a leaf was damaged. We are encouraged to hope that this prize will in fact flourish wherever its country cousin, **Thevetia nereifolia**, will. This latter, the so-called "yellow oleander" is an old timer, long grown in California gardens, but cannot compare with its more handsomely endowed relative in beauty, stature or rate of growth.

We hope your reaction to **Thevetia thevetioides** will be as enthusiastic as our own for this sun lover, unknown in commercial listings and, indeed in collections of botanic gardens throughout the tropics, prior to our introduction, represents not only the end result of trials of this subject in our gardens but also those of a score of other possibilities which have been discarded as wanting only after much time and effort in our constant search for worthy additions to southern California gardens. In one size only, one gallon containers, \$5.

For an unusual Easter gift —

Flowering Cymbidium Orchids
from \$7.50

And of course, we have a fine selection of
traditional Easter flowering plants.